

Luke 15**“This man receives sinners and eats with them”**

Follow Jesus Exciting, Hard, Challenging / Ch 14 Jesus > 3 X Loaded Canon: Crowd

Hate Family/ Give Life/Cannot B Disciple - "He who has ears to hear, let him hear"

v. 1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.

IRONIC – Religious LEADERS Not Happy about all WRONG Kind of People

v. 2 Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Jesus REPLY to Grumbling Leaders > Parable: 3 CONNECTED Stories

3 Things LOST – Sheep, Savings, Son > ALL FOUND leads to GREAT JOY

Most FAMILIAR Story > FATHER 2 Sons / Jesus: All we ever thot about God Wrong

1. The Sinful Son

a. Rebellion v 12 younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.

Jewish Law clear Instruction on Situation

To son...give no power over yourself while you live; and give not your goods to another to have to ask for them again.
WISDOM Book - Sirach 33.19-23

Trad. Near Eastern Father > DRIVE Son Away w BLOWS – Verbal, Physical

Rome: Father held Power Life/Death son - Most World Son w/ any Brains Not Do!

Lit. Divide Gk. BIOS = LIFE = LAND / Life of People was their LAND / Property

Younger Son “Tear Your Life APART - “I want your STUFF, but Not You!”

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us turned to own way Isa 53.6

v. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

FAR AWAY FROM HOME AS POSSIBLE

Disgraced Family: Fast Women & Camels evil man is bent only on rebellion 17.11

Rebellion led to... **b. Repulsiveness** vs. 14-16 spent everything, a severe famine... in need. 15 hired self out... feed pigs.. longing to fed w pigs ate...no one gave him anything.

JEWISH SAYING "May a curse come upon the man who cares for swine"

Overcome by Hunger & Humiliation - 1) No MONEY 2) No FOOD

pleasures of sin (last) for a short time. Hebrews 11:25

Money > Friends / No \$ NO FRIENDS

Repulsiveness led to... **c. Realization** v. 17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!’

Hardship > Attention Getter, Listen to God

Sin has DE-CENTERED Us from God > We need to Go Back to His HOME

Realization to....d. Repentance TURN AROUND v. 18,19 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."

Sin Against God and Man and Self Turned Around but Trusted Self Own Pla

Had Own Plan to get Right w Father - Main Problem BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

Repentance led to....e. **Reconciliation**

Jewish Community – Kezazah Ceremony - Jewish Son lost Inheritance to Gentiles

Cut-Off by Entire Village if came Home > Earth Pot w Burned Corn & Nuts Broken

v 20,21 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"the father ran" – Shocking in Palestine - Arrives: No Scolding > No Restitution

The rabbis agreed that God would welcome the penitent sinner. But it is a new idea that God is a seeking God, a God who takes the initiative. Leon Morris

"man receives sinners & eats w them" / NEVER IMAGINED Such a Father

Muslim & Buddhist > Shock, Dangerous / No Total, Absolute, Unconditional Forgive

Complete Speech > Doubt Father's Grace / Cross turns ENEMIES into FRIENDS

Rebels become BELOVED CHILDREN

Word = PRODIGAL > Excessive, Extravagant, Wasteful, Over the Top

GOD is the PRODIGAL > GRACE is Reckless, Unlimited, Excessive

Reconciliation led to... f. **Restoration** vs. 22-24 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

ROBE = Position // RING = Authority SHOES = Free Man, CALF = Sonship

Bayview Glen Church in Toronto, Canada P. Sam Nasser upset > Preach Iranians

PERSIAN – Woman on Cell Phone - Emergency? SAME Thing Next Week

Asked Stop > Husband in Iran Listening

Had Woman move to Front > More Clear Toronto to Tehran: End Service Prayer Receive X > Husband! Mom & Sis too!

2. Self-Centered Son

OLDER BRO watched from FIELD > Jesus holds Mirror to Pharis/ Grumble

Grumble > Moses describes Israelites - Refuse to Rejoice X's ministry Sinners

v. 2 Pharisees & scribes grumbled, "This man receives sinners and eats with them"

Grumble about the Gospel > God's Love / Marvelous Love of God > Good News

Older, Self-Centered Son > Searched for Sheep & Coin: Not Brother!

a. Blind to Sinfulness

Father comes OUT for SELF-Centered Son just like he did for the SINFUL Son

v. 29 'Look, these many yrs I have served you, I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.

FATHER > LOOK! – not even DAD

"I never disobeyed" Proud > GREEDY

"Everything yours" 2/3 INHERITANCE

OLDER Brother > BIG Concern is CALF!

NOW Father is SPENDING HIS Money!

"Slaving" NOT Realize was SON

Not Enter Father's Best Party Ever!

Father to OLDER Son > "My CHILD..!" Wants him to ENTER the Party

REACTS WITH ANGER - FATHER Father GOES OUT TO HIM TOO

Blind to Sinfulness & b. Blind to Grace

vs. 30-32 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property w prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!..'Son, you are always w me, all of mine is yours...fitting to celebrate be glad bro dead > alive; lost > found.'"
"this son of yours" NOT MY BROTHER

"prostitutes" TEXT NEVER SAYS

REASON FOR ANGER?? > FATHER says "BROTHER of YOURS" SAME!

NO JOY IN THE LORD

LOGICAL Approach to 3 Stories –

100 Sheep – 1 Lost > Find Restore Fold

Searching Woman picture GOD: Shock

BEYOND Logic: 10 Coins, Day's Wages – 1 Lost > Search HOUSE and FIND Party for All > MORE Expensive!

Don't You CARE??

Find Sheep 1/100 of you Flock – Find Coin 1/10 of you Savings

Son – ½ of Family, Future, Destiny

Look for Stupid Sheep – Small Coin – IGNORE own Son in God's Image?

ILLOGICAL Approach to 3 Stories –

99 Sheep Safe & Secure: Risk all for 1? 1 Coin Lost? Day's Work, Search?

Run after Stubborn Son – Run Faster! Does not WANT to be Home!

Blind to Sinfulness AND Blind to Grace >> **c. Blind to Joy**

Restore Younger Bro COST the ELDER

vs. 25 "older son in field...came near.. heard music & dancing... servants: 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'
Angry and refused to go in. Father came out and entreated him

Jesus v 10 there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

God Rejoicing / Angels in His Presence

Selfish Son REFUSED to REJOICE

STAYED OUTSIDE and Grumbled

The son who was out of the house is now very much in, while the older son sits on the outside.

Darrell Bock

It is not his badness keeping him out, but his goodness. It is not his sins that are keeping him from sharing the feast...so much as his righteousness. The elder brother in the end is not lost despite of his good record, but because of it. Tim Keller

Younger Son – Lost in REBELLION Older – Lost in RELIGION

Young Son – Hated Father by being BAD Older – Hated Father being GOOD

3rd Son - ONE TELLING THE PARABLE

3. The Seeking, Saving Son

People see Jesus as AUTHENTIC – OPEN to ALL Coming to HIM

Redefines GOD: FATHER very rare in OT

Father Runs after Lost Children >Tender

Jesus friends Wrong kind of People

"tax collectors and sinners"

EAT w Them Outrageous "this man!!"

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners 1 Tim 1:15

ELDER Brothers divide World into 2 – Good People In, Bad People Out

BITTER, ANGER of ELDER is EVIDENT even in his GOODNESS

YOUNGER Brothers do the Same – OPEN Minded In, CLOSED Minded Out

BOTH try to be OWN SAVIOR –
Control Father being Bad, other by Good

WRONG! HUMBLE In / PROUD are OUT --- HONEST about Failure

Religious Obey GOD to get THINGS

GOSPEL People obey GOD to get GOD

HOW to MEET God

2 Religions: what I DO, what GOD does

Chapter 15 > What God Does – 3 Lost Things – Cannot FIND Themselves

a. Sought by God – TRUE Elder Brother > Search for Lost, Younger Brother

Loving Father > He seeks BOTH Sons

Kiss of Father prompts REPENTANCE

Father pleads w Elder Bro: COME IN!

We are ALL WRONG! But God RUNS after us and says I LOVE YOU!

"welcomes sinners & eats w them"

We love because he first loved us. 4.19

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

Luke 19:10

Goes out to Sinner - BEFRIENDS THEM

b. Turning to God > More than REPENTING of LIST OF SINS

Traditional Repentance of Younger Son > CONFESSION List

Diff btwn Christian & Moralism / Christians REPENT for what did RIGHT

Even Best Prayers could Send to HELL

Even our DESIRE to SERVE God is sometimes Desire to CONTROL GOD

What it COST God to BRING US Home

World says Problem of World is Religion Jesus says you are RIGHT!

Morality, Self-Righteousness not SAVE

vs. 31,32 ", 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Father > Everything I have is YOURS – Robe, Ring, Calf, Sandals

FOOLS Refuse to Come to God > They think They'll Miss Something – Pleasure, Possession, or Purchase in Life

END – Without God they LOOSE Everything / Those who Come get ALL

c. Found by God v. 4,8 "until he finds it"

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

Jesus stripped Naked so we Clothed

Call from Cross – My God why Forsaken?

Forsaken as Son – we become Children!

Creator dies for Rebellious Creatures

Then Rejoices over their Repentance